USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 26

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Many areas of the state received some needed rain showers during the week which helped to keep crops in mostly good condition, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. However, cooler than normal temperatures has slowed growth and development of the major field crops. Other activities included: scouting fields, baling hay, spraying herbicides, mowing roadsides, attending county fairs, and taking care of livestock.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.7 **days suitable for field work** during the week. Fifty-three percent of the **corn** crop has **silked** compared with 64 percent last year and 84 percent for the 5-year average. Two percent of the corn is in **dough** compared to 1 percent last year and 16 percent for the 5-year average. Corn **condition** is rated 63 percent good to excellent compared with 71 percent last year at this time.

Fifty-one percent of the soybean acreage is **blooming** compared with 50 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average. Seven percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared to 7 percent last year and 27 percent for the 5-year average. Soybean **condition** is rated 64 percent good to excellent compared with 65 percent last year at this time.

Ninety-nine percent of the wheat acreage has been **harvested** compared with 97 percent last year and 99 percent for the 5-year average. In general, the only wheat left to harvest is in the northern most counties. The **second cutting** of **Alfalfa hay** is 83 percent complete compared with 78 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is unchanged from last week with a rating of 70 percent good to excellent compared with 66 percent last year at this time. Livestock benefitted from the cool temperatures and favorable pasture conditions.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Silked	53	28	64	84
Corn in Dough	2	NA	1	16
Soybeans Blooming	51	33	50	71
Soybeans Setting Pods	7	NA	7	27
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	96	97	99
Alfalfa – 2nd Cutting	83	69	78	87

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	1	8	28	52	11
Soybean	2	8	26	54	10
Pasture	1	5	24	48	22

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	2	2
Short	18	22	23
Adequate	62	62	72
Surplus	18	14	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	2	2
Short	21	17	16
Adequate	63	69	74
Surplus	14	12	8
Days Suitable	4.7	5.3	6.0

CONTACT INFORMATION

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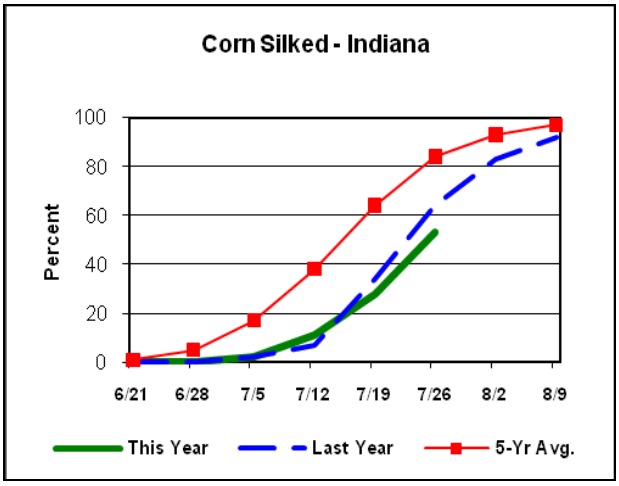
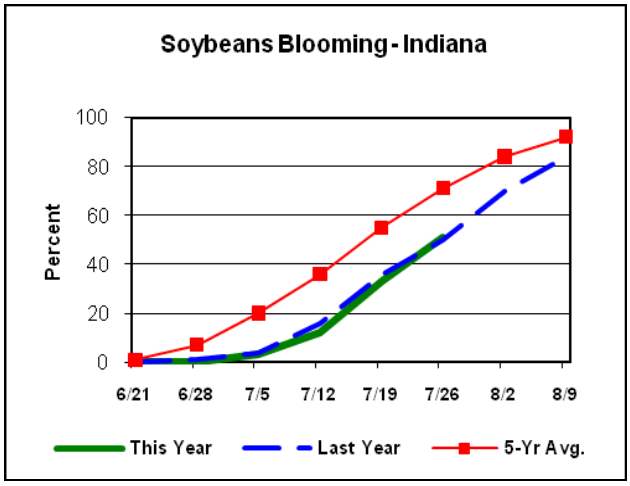
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Western Bean Cutworm Creating Many Questions

- Indiana's moth captures continue.
- Egg mass scouting has proved frustrating for some.
- Pre-tassel corn is the preferred corn growth stage for egg-laying.
- Hatched larvae can be found in many areas on the plant.

Moth captures of western bean cutworm in pheromone traps continue to accumulate in many northwestern and north central counties. However, field visits by pest managers in these heavy moth flight areas are not yielding the egg mass counts expected, some finding very few. Because egg mass scouting is necessary for this pest to evaluate fields for treatments, many questions are being asked. Admittedly our experience with this pest is limited, so we have been asking many questions of colleagues in the Western Corn Belt.

First, let us make you aware of an excellent western bean cutworm primer from a short course that was conducted on February 28, 2007, supported by the North Central IPM Center. Four comprehensive slide shows with audio from entomology specialists throughout the Midwest are available for viewing at <http://www.ncipmc.org/teleconference/wbc2007/videos >. All of the presentations will take over two hours to view, but to do so will answer many of your questions and make you the expert in your area!

Answering, in detail, the many insightful questions from folks scouting fields would take more room than this newsletter allows. Certainly the most asked question of the moment is why egg masses are not being found even though moths captures in the vicinity are over 200-300. The simple answer is that female moths are very finicky where they lay their eggs, remember it is male moths that are being drawn and captured in pheromone traps. Though moths will lay their eggs on most stages of corn, their preference is for pre-tassel (VT) corn. This assures that pollen will be available as a food source for the hatching larvae in about a week. For unknown reasons, female moths can have a strong affinity to certain hybrids (e.g., color, architecture, etc) over others, even within the same field. Too, our moth numbers, though the most ever in Indiana, still pales in comparison to typical captures for high-risk areas in Nebraska and Iowa (although presently their numbers are lower this year).

Finding larvae after they hatch and disperse from their egg cluster is time consuming. In whorl stage corn, which isn't a favorite egg-laying site, larvae can be found inside the whorl attempting to feed on leaf tissue. In this scenario, larvae are vulnerable to heavy rains and predators. In pre-tasseling/tasseling corn, larvae can be found in leaf axils, corn silks, or even the tassel itself. Larvae better survive on a mixed diet of pollen, anthers, and corn leaves. Unlike corn earworm, western bean cutworm will generally feed on these other plant materials before entering into the ear via the silk channel.

Larval damage to the ear is difficult to assess. For each larva/ear, there is an estimated 4 bushel per acre loss. This equates to 5% egg masses being found while scouting fields, which is the treatment threshold we are recommending. Often molds, within the ear, accompany the kernel damage done by this pest. For high value corn crops, where grain quality is carefully scrutinized, damage above and beyond the actual kernel loss should be considered in treatment decisions. We still advocate scouting for this pest's egg masses, as explained above, many corn varieties will be avoided for egg laying.

We appreciate your calls and sharing your field observations (765-494-8761) as we deal with this relatively new pest. Still it looks as though Indiana is the hot-spot in the Midwest for this ear feeder in 2009…aren't we lucky! Happy scouting!

John Obermeyer and Christian Krupke, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

(Additional Article on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday July 26, 2009

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2009 thru July 26, 2009				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	83	51	66	-9	0.40	3		15.95	+1.40	49	1510	-251
Francesville	81	50	66	-8	0.86	5		17.16	+2.51	46	1463	-151
Valparaiso_AP_I	84	50	69	-5	0.51	2		13.40	-2.04	45	1522	-56
Wanatah	84	46	67	-6	0.70	2	74	15.47	+0.51	48	1377	-130
Winamac	83	51	67	-6	0.55	4	72	12.35	-2.30	45	1498	-116
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	83	52	68	-7	1.14	5		14.75	-0.61	57	1411	-272
South_Bend	83	51	69	-5	0.61	3		15.43	+1.06	45	1519	-42
Young_America	81	53	68	-6	0.53	4		16.53	+2.43	40	1561	-88
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	81	54	69	-6	0.45	4		14.57	+1.26	48	1616	-23
Kendallville	82	55	70	-4	0.39	5		15.15	+1.08	54	1618	+77
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	81	50	65	-11	0.67	5		26.33	+9.75	52	1521	-349
Perrysville	85	51	68	-7	0.74	2	70	22.41	+6.52	51	1748	-2
Spencer_Ag	82	53	67	-8	1.54	4		26.78	+9.79	55	1690	-62
Terre_Haute_AFB	83	52	68	-8	0.84	4		19.77	+3.67	48	1905	+37
W_Lafayette_6NW	84	50	67	-7	0.45	3	76	19.03	+4.42	51	1656	+6
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	83	56	69	-7	1.00	6		21.42	+6.46	50	1854	+5
Greenfield	82	55	68	-8	1.51	4		24.32	+7.97	52	1649	-113
Indianapolis_AP	82	57	70	-7	1.40	6		25.20	+10.24	51	1910	+61
Indianapolis_SE	82	53	67	-9	1.20	6		26.38	+10.86	54	1640	-188
Tipton_Ag	82	50	66	-7	0.58	6	77	21.14	+6.40	54	1552	-44
East Central (6)												
Farmland	83	52	67	-6	1.19	7	71	15.57	+0.91	49	1568	+16
New_Castle	79	52	65	-9	1.83	5		18.02	+1.95	48	1512	-74
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	86	56	72	-8	1.13	3		20.27	+4.59	48	2232	+56
Freelandville	83	56	69	-8	1.96	4		25.94	+9.73	48	1920	-13
Shoals_8S	84	52	68	-9	2.70	4		25.69	+8.17	48	1748	-110
Stendal	86	57	72	-6	3.13	4		27.06	+9.68	47	2190	+157
Vincennes_5NE	87	56	70	-7	2.86	5		26.51	+10.30	52	2011	+78
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	82	54	69	-7	3.55	7		22.81	+5.12	65	1924	+71
Oolitic	82	54	68	-8	3.87	5	69	24.43	+7.84	57	1750	-18
Tell_City	84	59	71	-7	3.42	4		21.75	+4.15	47	2083	+23
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	84	55	69	-7	2.84	5		17.39	+1.45	48	1811	+148
Greensburg	82	55	69	-5	1.79	4		22.03	+5.96	54	1888	+159
Seymour	82	52	67	-8	2.90	4		20.61	+4.60	48	1725	-58

DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com
or call 1-888-798-9955.

Cool Temperatures: Good News or Bad News for Corn

Published 21 July 2009

URL: http://www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.09/Good NewsBad News-0721.html

The recent spate of unusually cool temperatures has been welcomed by county fairgoers, but some of the guys sitting around the back table at the Chat 'n Chew Cafe are wondering whether it is good news or bad news for a corn crop that has already experienced its fair share of stress this year. In all honesty, we can only speculate on the answer because it is so unusual for such temperatures to occur in mid-July that there is very little precedence to go by.

Potentially Good News

- Considering that the much of state's late-planted corn crop is just now moving into the critical pollination stage, cooler temperatures are preferable to stressfully hot temperatures.
- Ditto for earlier-planted corn that is now in the early stages of grain fill.
- The rate of development of certain leaf diseases, like gray leaf spot, may slow down.

Potentially Bad News

- Cool temperatures equal fewer heat units (GDD) per day. That translates into slower corn development and will further delay the progress of much of the state's crop that was planted weeks later than normal to begin with and whose silking progress statewide was already 2 weeks behind the 5-year average.
- Unusually cool temperatures prior to silk emergence may result in the occurrence of the "silk balling" phenomenon, whereby silk elongation is interrupted or altered, resulting in a mass of scrambled silks near the tip of the cob that never fully emerge from the husk. The consequence of such scrambled silks is poor kernel set.

Related References

Nielsen, RL (Bob). 2000. Scrambled Silks, Anyone? Corny News Network, Purdue Univ. Online at http:// www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.00 /SilkBalling-0718 .html [URL accessed 7/21/09].

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